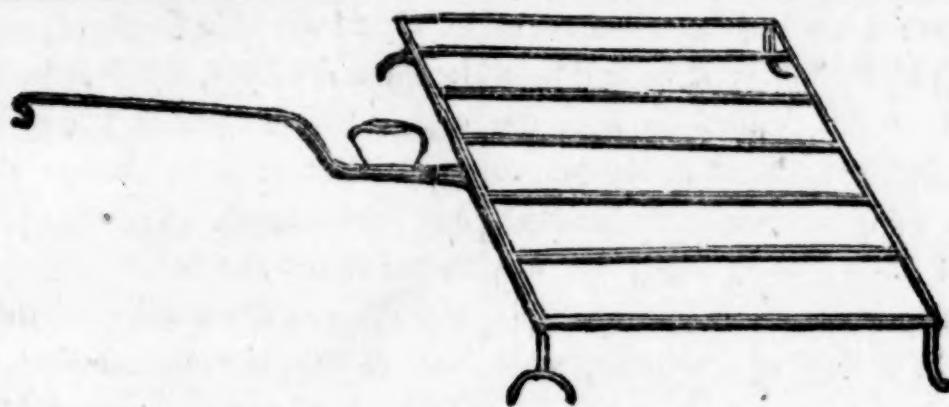


# COBBETT's WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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“ Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl, for your miseries that shall come upon you.—Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.—Your gold and silver is cankered ; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.—Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth : and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.—Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton ; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.—Ye have condemned and killed the just ; and he doth not resist you.”—SAINT JAMES'S EPISTLE, Chap. v. verses from 1 to 6.

## STATE OF THE POOR; AND PROJECTS OF THE SCOTCH AND ENGLISH LANDLORDS.

Kensington, 9th August, 1826.

THE Letter which I am about to insert, though it applies immediately to Lancashire, contains a pretty true description of the state of the manufacturers in every part of the kingdom. My MOTTO is well worth reading, by the *master manufacturers*. St. JAMES talks of *reaping*, he having (poor unenlightened soul!) lived in the

“ dark ages,” long before Sir ROBERT PEEL, and spinning jennies, and long before “ WHAT'S WATT” and weaving by steam, were heard or dreamt of. There seem to have been some pretty hard-hearted fellows in St. James's time : they, it seems, knew how to keep back the wages by fraud ; but, alas ! how would St. James have stared, if he had been told of

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[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]



weaving for a penny a yard; if he had been told of the *badger-shops*; if he had been told of the fires at the mills; if he had been told of the deductions from the wages on account of the wages not being laid out at the master's own shop; and, when he was talking about nourishing of hearts as in a day of slaughter, what would he have said to an affair like that of the hell-hole on the 16th of August? Nevertheless, my motto must not be extended to all the master manufacturers. There are some that do not merit it; and God knows there ought to be; otherwise the whole race would assuredly be destroyed by fire and brimstone.

The writer of the following letter is a gentleman by no means disposed to exaggerate; and he understands the matter perfectly well. He asked me a question, at the close of his letter, which I shall make a point of answering, when I have inserted the letter. The reader will perceive that he tells me, that a great portion of the people express their sorrow at my not having been returned for Preston, since they believe that I should have effected something, tending to lessen their sufferings. Something I certainly should have effected instantly; and I should

have prepared the way for a great deal more. As it is, I shall do what I am able for them; and let them recollect, that it is by no means impossible that I may be in parliament now, before this day twelvemonth. With this preface I insert the letter, which I look upon as a true account of the state of the poor; and, indeed, of the working classes in general, in the manufacturing parts of the kingdom.

*Royton, near Oldham, Lancashire,  
July 31, 1826.*

DEAR SIR,—I doubt not but you will recollect, that, both at Preston, and afterwards at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, in conversations that I had with you, speaking from personal knowledge, that a residence in the very midst of the cotton manufactures of Lancashire had given me, I gave it as my most decided opinion, that those manufactures would get worse than they then were, and that consequently there would be a very considerable addition to the misery and distress of the people in these populous and extensive districts. Although it is but a short time since these conversations took place, yet it has been quite long enough to prove the truth of these opinions. Since that time, several very extensive establishments have been shut up, whilst a great many others, who were then working, what is called *full time*, have reduced their hours of working, some to two, some to three, and some to four days a week; and this too, you will observe, in many instances, *with reduced wages during the time they are working*: so that the poor creatures are suffering every way. The condition of the poor weavers, in particular, and the great

mass of the labouring population generally, in this part of the country, is miserable in the extreme. We have, at different times, heard and read much of the destitute condition of the poor Irish; but if they now are in a more distressed condition than the great mass of the population in this part of the country, they are in a dreadfully suffering state indeed. What makes the matter worse, too, is, that all hope of improvement under the present system is fast dying away. Some masters have, until now, been in some degree sanguine, that the present would be but a temporary depression, and that in a short time all would be well again. This feeling appears now pretty generally to be giving way amongst those who have, until now, been foolish enough to cling to it; and the gloominess of despair is consequently fast succeeding to the exhilaration of hope. In this state of things, every body is asking the questions, "What is to be done?" "What is to become of us?" The newspapers in the neighbourhood have all sorts of schemes—some recommending one thing, some another, while a great portion of the people are not backward in expressing their indignation and grief that you are not returned for the Borough of PRESTON, since they very well know that no effort on your part would have been spared, to have effected an amelioration of their tremendous sufferings. What must be done in the course of the ensuing winter, I know not. I expect nothing in the way of relief from Government. The extreme of starvation is an evil of such frightful magnitude, that it is not very likely the people will patiently submit to it. I suppose this, too, is the opinion of the authorities here, as the country is being filled with soldiers. The military, however, will neither fill the bellies of the hungry people, nor pay the interest of the National Debt. However, I believe that the fear meant to be inspired by the presence of the military, is meant to be all the

relief for the present accumulating distresses.

You have heard a good deal said about the hand-loom weavers and the power-loom weavers. Hitherto, it has been, that the power-loom weavers have been able to earn a little more than the hand-loom weavers, and have been a little better employed by their masters, because of the reduced prices arising from using the power-loom, at which, in comparison with those masters who employed the hand-loom weavers, they could afford to sell their goods. Now, however, such is the increased depression in the trade, that the power-loom masters are obliged, in some instances, to suspend their works almost entirely; and, in most instances, to reduce their time of working to about three or four days a week. A few of the masters, however, having either less prudence, or more extended means than the others, yet run their works the full time: this, however, is not likely long to continue, as goods keep sinking in price, if sales are effected at all, every market-day.

There is, to be sure, in all this distress and difficulty, *the land*, as you observe, to go to; but the *difficulty of obtaining the Poor-rates is very great, and in some instances next to impossible*. The inconvenience and distress arising from this source is very serious. *Query: Does Mr. STURGES BOURNE's law, authorizing the appointment of select vestries, throw any additional difficulties in the way of obtaining relief from the Poor-rates?* This is a question frequently asked. I shall feel myself greatly obliged by your explanation of it.

I am, most respectfully,  
WILLIAM FITTON.

Now, in answer to the question, at the close of this letter, I have to observe, that the Bill of STURGES BOURNE, about vestries, has only altered the law, in order to

take some power from the poor, and give it to the rich ; some of that power, which the whole body of poor-rate payers possess, in the management of the affairs of the parish. But, observe, that in the granting or withholding relief to a poor person, the whole body of the parishioners have not the smallest power, even supposing them to be unanimous. A Vestry may do certain things in the way of raising the money, and as to the *manner* of relieving the poor ; but the Vestry has no power to refuse relief.

STURGES BOURNE's Bill altered the law as to voting at Vestries. Before this law, every person who paid towards the poor rates had a vote in the vestry, whether he paid little or much ; STURGES BOURNE's Bill introduced a principle, tending to establish an aristocracy of wealth. Now, if a man be rated at less than fifty pounds a year, he has only one vote ; if rated at fifty pounds, he has two votes ; and if rated at more than fifty, another vote for every twenty-five pounds of additional rating, until he comes to six votes ; so that one man may have six votes, and another man only one vote. Nothing was ever more unjust than this ; but, it is only one more of those stretches

of the law, in favour of the rich, which stretches have, by degrees, brought the country into its present deplorable state.

But, there is here, and there is in no law that has yet been passed, any thing to take the *power out of the hands of the Magistrate*. This is the security, and the only security, for the poor. Vestries may, in certain cases, control the Overseers ; may restrain them from giving relief ; but, after all, the Magistrate has the power of commanding the relief to be given ; and, if it were not for this power in the Magistrate, horrible, indeed, would be the situation of the poor : there would have been rebellion in England long and long ago. The first thing for a poor person to do, is to go to the Overseer of the parish : if he refuse to relieve, or if he give inadequate relief, the poor person is to go to the Magistrate ; that is to say, to any Magistrate in the district, or in the County, as the case may be. It is the business of the Magistrate to summon the Overseer, to inquire into the circumstances, and to order relief, if necessary. But, suppose the Magistrate will not do his duty. This is a very horrible supposition, and I hope, that few cases of the kind have ever

occurred. I wish not to believe that it ever can be necessary for any one to know how to go to work to bring a Magistrate to justice for so infamous a breach of his oath. I will not, therefore, take up more room with this matter at present, especially as I intend, in my second Number of the "Poor Man's Friend," to enter very fully into this matter.

Aye, to be sure, the *poor-rates*, here are the sure means of relief; and how there can be any difficulty, such as Mr. FITTON speaks of, it is beyond my capacity to discover. This I know, that, when lawyer SCARLETT had his Bill before the House of Commons, which Bill I trod upon, and destroyed, just as we do serpent's eggs; when that memorable offspring of the wisdom of lawyer SCARLETT, favoured as it was by CASTLEREAGH, was before the House, petitions were coming posting up from the farmers, beseeching the Honourable House not to attempt to pass lawyer Scarlett's Bill, which Bill contemplated putting an end to the poor-rates, to a very extensive degree, at any rate. The farmers were frightened out of their senses. They said, that if lawyer SCARLETT got the law passed, he must go and carry on the farm-

ing, for that they would not. In short, they knew very well, that they could not live in the country, unless there were the usual mode of relieving the poor.

To me it seems the most astonishing thing in the world, that any man in England can talk about the people *starving!* When we all know, that every inch of land, every brick and tile in a house; that all is pledged by the law, to prevent the people from suffering from want. Every man of common sense knows that the field, for instance, which he calls *his*, is only his upon certain conditions; and that one of those conditions is this; namely, that he shall continue to pay money to the Overseer of the Poor, in order that the said Overseer may take care that no person in the parish may suffer from want. This is a condition attached to every man's tenure and every man's land. What do people mean, then, by saying, that there are *starving Weavers*, and *starving Spinners*, and *starving Labourers*? How are there to be any starving people, as long as this law remains, and as long as there are houses and land? and, if there be any starving people in the country as long as this law is in existence, then the laws are set

at defiance, and we are living in a state of *Tyranny*: for Tyranny is that state of things, in which men are, when they are compelled to obey those, who, themselves, set the law at defiance.

Taking this view of the matter, we see, at once, how monstrous it is, for any Town or any County to call upon the Government to grant, out of the *general taxes*, money for affording that relief which ought to come out of the *Parochial Assessments*. To mention such a thing, to think of such a thing, seems to say, that we have come to that pass, that the settled law of the land is no longer to be attended to. To propose such a measure is not only impudent, but it is foolish in the extreme. It would be just as reasonable and as right for the government to take money out of the taxes to assist private persons, or partnerships, whose affairs are going wrong; and, monstrous as the thought of this is, PITT actually did it in the case of BOYD and BENFIELD. Indeed, it was in part, done in 1793 and 1811, in the *Exchequer Bill Loans* to merchants and manufacturers. This was not an absolute *gift*; there was *repayment*; but, it was an employment of the public wealth for the benefit of a par-

ticular class of persons; a thing, that no government ever did before, and a thing which no wise government ever did, or ever will do. But, the fact is, that, before a government can come to think of such miserable tricks as this, it must be nearly "*done up*." It can have no firm and natural resources to rely on. It is, like an insolvent tradesman, driven to all sorts of tricks; and its calculations are not, how it shall collect taxes and how it shall pay its way; but, how it shall *get along*, with all the *usual forms*, and with very little of the *reality*, of either receipts or payments.

Those who talk of "government grants" to relieve the people; those who talk thus, like a silly, dull, pompous fellow of the name of TAYLOR, who is editor of the Manchester *Guardian*, and who, in his paper of the 1st of July last, is so obliging as to tell us, almost in so many words, that he "is a gentleman and a man of honour"; this fellow, who was WOOD's negotiator with COLQUITT and BARRE, and who knew, by *instinct*, that WOOD had never said what hundreds of persons can swear they heard him say; those who, like this great conceited ass, talk about "a government grant" being "preferable to throwing the whole

" of the *population* upon the poor-rates, and *breaking* down their "independence"; those who, like this great, sappy-headed fellow, talk thus, with all the *unconcern* imaginable; these people never stop to think of the consequence of the attempt to put their advice into execution. This Taylor says, "There have, during the past week, been various observations in the London papers respecting the call which has been made on government, to come forward with *a grant of public money* for the relief of the destitute poor in the manufacturing districts; and it seems to be almost generally admitted, that unless commercial affairs very speedily and decidedly improve, *some such measure must be adopted*. The proposition, of course, is not free from objections; and its details would obviously require attentive consideration and great care, both in order to secure the most effective and economical administration of the fund, and to prevent its being applied as the poor-rates have been in some of the agricultural counties; and as there is no little danger of their being in this manufacturing one, in part payment of the wages of labour. *But the more*

"we consider the subject, the more decidedly we are convinced that *a contribution from the public funds is less objectionable than the system of assessments in aid* would be found, if carried to an extent sufficient to meet the difficulty."

Oh! "the more WE consider"! A pretty fellow to "consider"! And thus, without more ceremony, to settle the matter, that a grant from the general taxes is better, is "*less objectionable* than the *system of assessments in aid*." There is a fellow for you! There is a conceited ass! He thinks that he has found out something better, or *less bad*, than the *poor-rates*, which have existed three hundred years! This fellow is a pretty "WE" to settle a matter like this; and to determine, that the safe, sure, efficient, and all-pervading mode of relief is *a bad mode*. Here we have a pretty fair specimen of the capacity and the character of the "*best public instructor*." To the follies, the lies, the slanders, and the praises, put forth by this "*Instructor*," the country owes no small part of its present miseries. It is the *taxes*, and the *paper-money*, and the consequent *Corn Bills* that produce the mischief; but you never hear the asses of the "*In-*

strutor" call for a removal of these causes. Oh, no ! that would not suit them. The Corn Bill is the fruit of the taxes, the taxes the fruit of the *paper-system*; and, put an end to the paper-system, and, in a month, this very TAYLOR comes for a *bite* from those poor-rates which he now thinks "*objectionable*."

The "INSTRUCTOR" depends on the paper-system, *mind that*; and this the monster, stupid as it is, perceives from *instinct*. The *printers* are suffering as well as the *weavers*. It is said, that 1,500 are now out of employment in the WEN alone; and, there is no doubt, that the *sale of newspapers* has already fallen off very much. The *Stamp-office* could tell a pretty tale about this matter! What, then, would sappy-headed "man-of-honour," TAYLOR, have a grant of public money for the *printers out of employ*? Would he have a grant for the purpose of upholding the "manufacture" of *broad sheets*? Why not ? Particularly as this is "the best possible public instructor?" Surely we ought to have a grant for this purpose! What a pity it is, that a "gentleman and man of honour" should be such a ninny !

This stupid beast, TAYLOR, who really does seem to be only one

remove from an idiot, talks of a "remedy from a repeal of the *Usury-laws*!" A pretty instructor! Then he talks of the *Corn-laws*. Aye, here is something to be sure; but, what a pretty fellow this must be, to complain of the *Corn-laws* (which are made for the *benefit of the landlords*), and, in the very same breath, call for grants out of the taxes, the only effect of which would be to ease the poor-rates, which *those landlords have to pay*. The landlords are sometimes laughed at, as *foolish fellows*; but, it is only by those who do not know them. When I call them "*Jolterheads*," I do not mean that they are *unknowing in their own interests*, as far as relates to *grasping and holding fast*. They are, in this respect, clever as foxes or monkeys. They, above all men, are for "government grants;" for, this would keep the poor away from the rates; that is to say, *away from the purses of the landlords*. It is curious to see the tricks that they are playing off, in order to obtain such grants. In Scotland they are *setting the poor to meet and to petition* on the subject; they are thrusting these forward, in order to get from out of the taxes that relief which ought to come out of the pockets of the landlords. This is

as pretty a trick as ever was played off; and it is very well worthy of the ingenuity of the Jolterheads. It is a happy illustration of that low cunning, and of that selfishness for which they are so famous.

At the county meeting of Dumbarton, which was called by Sir Archibald Campbell, the Duke of Montrose, and some others, and the report of which meeting I find in the Glasgow Chronicle, this Sir Archibald Campbell is reported to have said, that "*He was against assessments, such as prevailed in the neighbouring kingdom; they had been complained of there, and for that reason he was against their introduction into the county of Dumbarton.*" They would recollect that great distress existed about six years ago, and the *conduct of the sufferers* was very different from what it is now. They all recollect of *what was called the radical war*. At that time they wanted, by menace, parade, and a show of force, to compel the gentlemen to assist them, and their conduct was such, that it was impossible to relieve them and entertain a proper respect for the constitution. Their conduct is very different on the present occasion. Being no longer misled by designing persons,

"they have behaved themselves with prudence and propriety, and borne their privations with fortitude. *They have suffered as much as human nature can endure.*"

This is pretty impudent; but this impudent fellow will learn, before it is over, that he is not to talk in this manner with impunity. It was by no means wise in him to revive the recollections, the bloody recollections, of the year 1820. He would have done well to avoid every thing of that sort; and that he will know one of these days. In the mean while, he has a dislike to "assessments such as prevail in the neighbouring kingdom." I dare say he has, I will engage that he has, a very great dislike to such assessments; and the Irish landlords have just the same sort of dislike; and all people have a dislike, to be sure, to pay what they owe; or rather, to give up that which they ought not to keep. But these Scotch Landlords seem to be aware, that it is quite impossible that they should keep their lands and houses and property, unless the people get food in some way or another. There is no law like that in England, which is efficient for the relief of the poor; but, there is the *law of nature*; and

the Scoten are not made of stuff to lie down in silence. Nobody will persuade them, that it is their duty, either as subjects or as Christians, to lie down and die with hunger, while there is plenty of food in the land: and, how dare these landlords of Scotland look the world in the face, while they declare, that "*the people have suffered as much as human nature can endure;*" and while they, the landlords, have a law in force *to prevent the importation of food!* How can these landlords look the world in the face, while such are their declarations and such their deeds.

In the same Glasgow paper, is the following most curious account of a meeting of the "Operatives." The account is in the following words: "A meeting of *operatives* was held in the *Unitarian meeting-house, Paisley,* on Monday evening, to take into consideration the propriety of *petitioning the King on their present distress.* Some discussion took place on the purport of the petition, when the greater part of the speakers were of opinion, that it should by no means enter into the cause of the present distress, or the pointing out of any remedy; but leave that wholly to those classes who

"have hitherto been silent on that subject. And that the statements in the petition should be confined entirely to their present miserable condition, and the inadequacy of the relief they at present receive, for the support of human beings; likewise, that the *prayer should be for nothing but a grant from government,* to enable them to meet the inclemency of the coming winter. On a show of hands being taken, the meeting agreed unanimously that the above propositions should form the basis of their petition; and that they should meet in the same place on the evening of Monday next, for the purpose of forwarding the measure, when the proceedings at the county meeting on Thursday, would give them a better idea how to act."

Here is a pretty story! These poor fellows have, you see, been *thrusted forward by the landlords!* The landlords hold them up as a terror to the Government. The poor fellows are not to say any thing about the CAUSE of distress; nor are they to point out any REMEDY; but are to leave those to their betters. Their petition is "to be confined entirely to their present miserable con-

"dition," and they are to "pray for a GRANT OF MONEY FROM THE GOVERNMENT," and are to pray for NOTHING ELSE! One cannot help laughing at this! What a set of brazen vagabonds it must have been that invented such a scheme as this, and that had the audacity to suppose that it would extort money from the Government! What fools these "operatives" must have been to have been played off in this manner by a set of insolent vagabonds, who wanted to plunder the whole kingdom for the sake of sparing their own purses. It is clear as day-light, that nothing could be got by the people by any measure of this sort. If any money could have been got from the Government, it would have been got for the landlords, out of whose estates the maintenance of the poor must come in one shape or other, unless in cases where the poor, like those in Ireland in 1822, can be compelled to lie down and die by whole parishes under the extremeunction.

When this foolish fellow, Taylor, and others like him, are talking about grants from the Government, they seem to be wholly ignorant of the situation of the country. Every one of them seems to

imagine that the distress, as it is called, is confined to the district in which he himself lives. The stupid creature does not appear to see that the *distress* is as general as the air we breathe; that it is in every part of the kingdom, in every branch of business, amongst persons of every description, the well-gorged tax-eaters excepted. The printers are in distress; the builders, the carpenters, the bricklayers, the painters; of which there are now *more than fifteen thousand out of employment in the Wen*, though to this Wen comes a very large part of the incomes and the earnings of the whole kingdom. Amongst the merchants and ship-owners the distress rages in every seaport, and that to a degree perfectly terrific. The Custom-House is a scene that gives you a good idea of a declining country. As to manufacturers and their work-people, the distress prevails throughout every branch, from the northernmost manufacturing town in Scotland to Frome in Somersetshire in one direction, and to Norwich in another direction. Though the last quarter of a year (between Easter and Mid-summer), is naturally one of the least pressure upon the poor, the Poor-rates in the city of Norwich

rose one-fifth in amount during that quarter. The Scotch landlords, and sappy-headed Taylor, of the Manchester Guardian, do not seem to know—the one of them that there are manufactures anywhere but in Scotland, and the other that there are any except in and round Manchester. They may, indeed, have heard of those in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire; but Somersetshire is so far off! Yet fellows so sapient as the man-of-honour Editor at Manchester, ought to know that, within a circumference of about ninety miles, embracing parts of Somersetshire, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire, there are, at the very least, a hundred thousand men employed in making the cloth which is worn by almost all the gentlemen and richer classes in England. This pretender to gentlemanship ought to have known, that these cloth manufacturers have been ruined, even to a greater extent than the cotton manufacturers, though, observe, the articles of their manufacture are comparatively scarcely an object of export. This Mentor of the Preston Sir Andrew Ague-cheek ought to have known that more than one-half of the work-people of the clothiers in the West have actually been thrown

out of work; and he ought to have known, too, and the Scotch landlords ought to have known it, that the landlords in the West have not had the impudence, and, at the same time, the folly, to endeavour to extort money from the Government, in order to maintain their poor. No, faith! there is nobody that has impudence to this extent, except the domineering vagabonds of Lancashire and Scotland. There is no doubt that the landlords in Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and Wiltshire, would shift the burthen off their own shoulders to the shoulders of the whole nation if they could. I must confess, however, that I merely suppose this, and that I do not know the fact; but, however disposed they may be to do it, they have, at any rate, not had the impudence openly to propose it. The landowners in manufacturing districts derive great benefit from the existence of the manufactures. The more the manufactures increase, the more the adjoining lands increase in value. I have seen land in Lancashire, letting for six, eight, or ten pounds the statute acre; which same land, if situated in divers parts of Sussex or Hampshire, would not let for more than thirty shillings an acre, at the most. All this great addi-

tional value is given by the neighbouring factories ; and is not this land to bear an additional charge of Poor-rates when these factories happen to fail ? "Oh, no, " (says this '*gentleman*' Taylor,) "a contribution from the public funds is less objectionable," than a system of assessments in aid, as he calls it ; that is to say, that for the Lancashire landlords to make the rest of the nation pay their Poor-rates, is less objectionable, than for they themselves to pay their Poor-rates. But, again I ask, where is the Government to *stop*, if it once begin making grants of money for the feeding of the poor ? Where is it to stop ? The landlords of Lancashire and of Scotland will hardly say, that those of Norfolk and of Somersetshire and Gloucestershire ought not to have a bit of a grant as well as they. They will hardly say this ; so that the whole nation must be relieved, there must be grants for every part of the nation, and money must be raised upon every creature to relieve every creature.

This, therefore, is manifest nonsense. It is what cannot be done, even by this government, uncontrolled as its power is, unchecked as it is by any known power upon earth ; that is to say,

any power arising from the will of man. It cannot do this thing ; it cannot relieve the distresses by grants of money. It ought not if it could, but it could not if it would ; and so the "*gentleman*" Taylor and the Scotch landlords may spare all their tricks and contrivances upon that subject. Why not grant some money to the poor creatures that are now half-starving in London ? There are, as I said before, upwards of fifteen thousand journeymen now wholly out of employment. Probably there will be fifty thousand out of employment, within the bills of mortality, before the next month of March. In all human probability this will be the case ; and, if grants of money are to be made out of the taxes, surely such a grant will be made for the Wen as well as for any other place.

The folly of supposing it possible to relieve the distresses of the country by grants from the taxes, is surpassed by only one other folly ; namely, that of supposing that these distresses can be relieved, or even *mitigated*, on a general scale, by SUBSCRIPTIONS or other contributions of that sort ; and, if the Ministers find it inconvenient to be pestered with these applications for grants of money out,

the public taxes, they certainly have brought the evil upon themselves by advising the King to subscribe, and by setting subscriptions on foot themselves. This was a tacit declaration that the distressed manufacturers ought not, or could not, rely upon the poor-rates! This was a very dangerous notion to inculcate. This notion, so hostile to the settled law of the land, was one of extreme danger to the State itself; for, while it induced landlords to endeavour to slip out of the maintenance of the poor, it unsettled the minds of the poor themselves, and made them hanker after a something wholly unknown to the law, while it took from them that confidence in the law which never ought to have been out of their minds. In times like these, the greatest possible care ought to be taken to avoid every thing like innovation; and I am very certain, that if the Government, or, rather, the Ministers, instead of advising the King to subscribe to the relief of the distressed manufacturers, had advised His Majesty to issue a proclamation, strictly enjoining all Overseers and Magistrates to be particularly attentive to the discharge of that part of their duty which relates to the relief of the poor; if His Majesty had been

thus advised, instead of being advised to subscribe a pitiful sum, not amounting to, perhaps, *one hundredth part of what will be expended during the present year on parks and places*; if His Majesty had been thus advised, both the rich and the poor would have been looking to the law of the land; would have felt steady confidence in that law, and not have been hunting after subscriptions and government grants.

To conclude, it is worse than the most miserable nonsense; it amounts to a proof of drivelling, and even of idiocy, to believe, and it is a proof of downright roguery to affect to believe, that when money is sent from London, to the Parson and principal proprietors of any parish, to be distributed amongst the distressed poor, it is perfectly monstrous to affect to believe, that such money will not go to supply the place of poor-rates. In the first place, the overseers of every parish are bound to provide for the poor. If they neglect their duty, *there is the Magistrate*. If both openly neglect their duty—if both dare to set the law at defiance, are not these pretty people to send subscription money to? And, if they are already providing for the poor before the subscription arrives, is

it not almost beastly to pretend to believe, that they will not deduct from the parish allowance, which they already make, an amount equal to the subscription which they have to distribute? Away, then, with all the nonsense about subscriptions and grants! The law has provided an ample source of relief; and to that source, all persons in distress ought to apply. It is possible, indeed, that the Magistrate will be so daring, and so inhuman, as to refuse to do his duty; but, while this is, I hope, next to impossible, there is justice for the Magistrate, if he refuse to do his duty; but of this matter I shall say more, in my second Number of the Poor Man's Friend, which I intend to make a complete treatise, on the subject of the rights of the poor.

WM. COBBETT.

P.S. From something I have heard, since I began to write this, I think that the subscription which would be most likely to cause the poor to be properly relieved, would be a subscription to raise a few pounds, in order to send some intelligent person into the Northern Counties, just to see a little what the Overseers and Magistrates do, when they are applied to for relief; for (and I wish every man in

Lancashire to bear it in mind), there is law to compel even *Magistrates to do their duty; or, to punish them for their neglect of such duty.*

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#### TO MR. LAWLESS.

Kensington, 10th August, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

As to my late complaint about the article inserted in your paper, which article was dated at Preston, and pointed out, in your paper, as "*very curious*," I had complete right to express my anger in the strongest manner; and, in a much stronger manner than I did. What was it to me, that the article was taken from a London paper, if that really were the case? That circumstance was *not mentioned* in your paper, which gave the article *as coming from Preston direct*. But, no matter; it was given as *authentic*; nothing was said to call its correctness in question; no observation to induce your readers to suppose, that *you* had any doubt of the truth of its facts, or of the soundness of its opinions, and the justice of its sentiments. To judge of the conduct of another, in a case like this, one must be in the place of that other; or, at least, must bring ourselves as near as possible into that place by our imagination. Imagine yourself, then, at the end of a contest like that which I carried on at Preston; imagine yourself reading in the *Register* an artful tissue

of villainous discolourings and misrepresentations of your conduct, your deportment, and your character, and also of the feelings which existed towards you, and further, of the prospects of your utility in future; imagine yourself reading this tissue in the Register; knowing not only how false the whole thing was, but knowing, at the same time, that it was the work of a rascally Reporter, always half drunk, or studying how he could extort money; at once a rogue and fool; a scoundrel of pretended feeling, and capable, in all human probability, of shedding innocent blood; just as false as blarneying; as base, as mercenary and malignant a wretch as ever belonged to those corrupt adventurers, which the devil seems to draw across St. George's Channel for the purpose of dishonouring unfortunate Ireland; imagine yourself to happen to know the monster and his motives; imagine yourself, with all this knowledge, to be reading his article in the Register, and to find in it an observation, that "**LAWLESS, for the FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, SEEMED HONEST AND SINCERE!**" Imagine yourself reading an account like this in the Register; imagine me letting the Register go forth and reach you, without sending you a letter protesting my innocence of the insertion. Imagine all this; and when you have so done, your surprise will, I think, be, that I expressed myself in so moderate a manner.

Having pen in hand, I cannot bring myself to refrain from saying a few words to you upon your extraordinary perseverance in applauding Sir FRANCIS BURDETT; while, at the very same time, you

are, and with all your usual force and ability, congratulating the country, on the failure of the famous project for disfranchising the forty-shilling freeholders. I will, before I go any further, insert from your last paper some remarks of yours, made in the way of preface to a speech which Mr. LAMBTON delivered at the late election for Northumberland. Your remarks were these:—“The following speech, delivered by Mr. Lambton during the late struggles in Northumberland, displays the same *generous, manly* feeling for Ireland, and for civil and religious freedom, which distinguished that gentleman during the Parliamentary discussions in 1825. Mr. Lambton was one of those leading men who resisted, with *honest indignation*, the effort then made to deprive the poor people of Ireland of their best defence. We shall never forget the severity with which he felt compelled to turn upon one of his most valued friends, Sir Francis Burdett, on account of that *Hon. Baronet's advocacy of the Forty-shilling Freeholder Abolition Bill*. Whenever the attempt shall be made to disarm the Irish nation of this tremendous weapon of defence, as well as offence, there is little doubt Sir Francis Burdett and Mr. Lambton will be found contending in the same ranks for the best and most valuable privileges Ireland possesses.”

“Your reasons, JACK, your reasons,” as the Prince says to Falstaff. Your reasons, my friend, for believing that, if another attempt be made upon the forty-shilling franchises, the Baronet will be found contending in the

same rank with Mr. LAMPTON, in favour of those franchises? You appear to me to be getting into a hobble here; for, if the Baronet do join Mr. LAMPTON, he will be guilty of manifest "*inconsistency*"; to which, by the by, you seem to be urging him; and you ought to know that the Baronet piques himself upon his "*consistency*". He told his toad-eaters once, at a Crown and Anchor dinner, that, *whatever else* people might say of him, no one could say that he was not a "**CONSISTENT Politician**"; whereupon his toad-eaters proclaimed him to be, "*Westminster's Pride and England's Glory.*" He was then for universal suffrage; last year he was for cutting off the forty-shilling freeholders, and you, who call him a "*valued friend*" of Mr. LAMPTON, who, at the risk of being suspected of irony, call him an "*Honourable Baronet*"; you, who, upon another occasion call him an "*excellent person*"; you have now no doubt that he will in future be a gallant and mortal enemy of all attempts at disfranchising forty-shilling freeholders!

Why, Sir, if one can believe this, one may believe any thing. There is neither rhyme nor reason for what you say in favour of this inconstant, this fickle, this capricious, this shilly shally, this wholly inefficient and useless man. What! you ascribe generous and manly feeling to Mr. LAMPTON; you call that "*honest indignation*" in him which made him resist the disfranchising project. The indignation was *honest*, I dare say; or, at least, it might be so. But, if that were "*honest indignation*", which induced a

man to resist "the effort then made to *deprive the poor people of Ireland of their best defence*"; and, if BURDETT was the man, who, above all others, made this most wicked effort; if this be so, and even the hired Rump cannot deny it, what is to justify you in calling this an "*honourable man*," and an "*excellent person*"? What is to justify you in telling us that this man will, in future, be the defender of the rights of these poor people of Ireland? His *twenty thousand acres* do not alter his character or his conduct. Upon what ground, then, I should be glad to know, is it, that you hold him forth as a man for the people to rely upon? He has never done any thing for the people; he never will do any thing for the people; not a man in England is there more afraid of seeing Reform in Parliament than he; he is as *fast a friend of the paper-money system* as there is to be found in the whole kingdom; he knows well that that which would destroy that corrupting system, would instantly shove him from his sinecure seat; in all England there is not a man that has a more deadly antipathy than he has to all men of spirit and of talent; and, Mr. **LAWLESS**, call him excellent as long as you please, he is just as musty and despicable an Aristocrat as any in this kingdom. And, even to this hour, while he affects to talk about liberality, he is as proud of his antiquity as any Welch or Scotch beggar, or as any of the old French Noblesse, that used to be seen with their coarse shirt sticking out at elbows, and with a six-penny small-sword hanging by their side. This hero of yours is

by no means deficient in point of judgment, when his own interest is at stake ; and he knows, as well as he knows any thing, that his Aristocratship will live just as long as the paper-money, and no longer ; that is to say, his Borough Mongership ; and that the moment the paper-money goes, that moment go *Old Sarum* and the *Rump*. In the meanwhile, he would, if he could, and as he told you and the rest of the Deputation he would, *take away the right of voting from all the poor people in England* as well as Ireland. He told you, and the rest of the Deputation, that he would do this if he could ; and yet you tell us ; you, who heard him say these words, tell us to expect him to be, in future, an *undaunted Champion of the forty-shilling Freeholders* !

In conclusion, Sir, I must confess my surprise at hearing these things from you, and at seeing you now engaged in supporting the new and ridiculous imposture, called the "Order of Liberators;" and seeing you condescend to be the agent of a man, who is a child compared to you, in point of talent, and whose inconsistency and want of principle, you have so ably exposed. If the people love to be imposed upon by such impostors, let them take the imposition and its consequences ; but let not those who despise the imposture and the impostors, condescend to assist and uphold them. Of one thing, I beg you to be assured ; and that is, that these impostors, these *BUTTON-men*, these *ORDER-men*, will never succeed in getting anybody in England. Great calamities are, I fear, in store for this country ; but I know of no calamity, past,

present, or possible, that would, in my opinion, be equal to the disgrace, the indescribable disgrace of submitting willingly to the guidance of impostors such as those to whom I have been alluding. The fact is, that the excellent conduct of the Forty-shilling Freeholders of Ireland ; the excellent conduct of the Catholic Priests ; the noble example which has been set upon this occasion ; these have been, in some measure, *tarnished* by being made a ground for the new, the half-cunning and half-mad tricks of these impostors, who could not let the thing alone, who must needs mix themselves up along with it ; and thus blast, if possible, the reputation of those who deserve the praise of all the world. The plain truth of the matter is this : these impostors first came to England, and endeavoured to take the right of voting from the Forty-shilling Freeholders, by asserting, even on their oaths, that they were the most corrupt and base wretches on the face of the earth. The Forty-shilling Freeholders, by their recent conduct, have given the lie to their shameless calumniators. These latter, therefore, now turn round, and, with a quack-like scheme, are endeavouring to put themselves at the head of these same Forty-shilling Freeholders. Having, in short, endeavoured in vain to destroy them by their calumnies, they are now endeavouring to destroy them by their praises, hoping, and not without reason, that the latter will be more efficacious than the former : all very natural ; and the only wonder is, that they should have the support of Mr. LAWLESS, who went from England, carrying with

him the applause of all honest men, for his able and successful endeavours to counteract the wiles of those very impostors.

I am, dear Sir,  
Your most obedient and  
most humble Servant,  
W.M. COBBETT.

“ BEST PUBLIC INSTRUC-  
TOR.”

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Dr. TORRENS makes a part of this instructor, and, as he is a good specimen of the whole, a fair sample of its ignorance and impudence, I will here notice, a little more fully than I did the week before last, that notable doctrine of his; namely, “ that “ it was the *Corn-Bill* that made “ people buy *Colombian Bonds*. ” Dr. TORRENS, who calls himself a COLONEL, and who is a Dead-Weight Captain of some corps or other, has, it seems, written and published a book on the *Corn Trade*; and, it is in this book that the above doctrine is laid down. Dr. BLACK of the Chronicle, who is not a fool himself, does not, however, scruple to quote real fools in support of any whim of his own; and, thus it has been in the present case.

DOCTOR BLACK is a thorough-paced Scotchman: all, with the

Doctor, is bad that is not Scotch: it is better for people to die with hunger than be fed by *poor-rates*, because poor-rates are not Scotch. Now, the Doctor knows, and, what is more, *he knows that the public knows*, that the paper-money system is Scotch; he knows that we all know, that *all the Scotch writers, Edinburgh Reviewers and all, have maintained*, that the paper-money system is a good one; he knows, in short, that *literary and political damnation awaits the Scotch fee-losofers, if the paper-money system be completely blown up*. This the Doctor well knows; and, therefore, he clings to the system like a drowning sailor to a spar.

Yet, it cannot be denied, that the *Foreign Loans* have been a cause of great loss, and of great national injury. It is evident to me and to all who think with me; it is evident to the whole of the COBBETTS, that is to say, to the men of sense, that this great national injury has been occasioned solely by the paper-money system. This does not suit Dr. BLACK and the Scotch. Yet, they do not know very well how to ascribe the injury to any thing else. In this dilemma, Dr. BLACK meets with Dr. TORRENS’s “ Book on the *Corn Trad*,” where he finds

the wonderful discovery, that the *Foreign Loans*, all the *Bubble-Schemes*, and “*Late*” panic and all, *arose from the Corn-Bill!* Dr. BLACK would have been too cunning to *assert this himself*; but, like the Quakers, when they spread slander on their neighbours, he puts forth the words of Dr. TORRENS, and merely tells us, that he thinks that TORRENS has “*explained* the matter in a *satisfactory enough* manner.”—Dr. BLACK saw, too, that this was falling in with the desires of the **LORD CHARLESSES**; that is to say, the *proud fools*: for, if the *paper-system fail*, and fail it must if I be right, the **LORD CHARLESSES** and all their tribes will be *clean swept from the face of the earth*; or, which would be better, will be compelled to *sweep* a part of that face; and that, too, as sure as they are now alive and insolent.

To ascribe this great national injury to the *Corn-Bill* was as much as to say, “the cause is an “obvious cause, and one that we “can remove, at any time, in a “moment.” To ascribe the injury to the paper-money system would have been to join the Cobbeatts, and, of course, to call for a destruction of the paper-system, and a sending of the **Lord Charlesses** and all their tribes of tax-

eating devils to sweep the streets, or to mend the highways. Therefore Dr. BLACK, though he must have known better, takes the nonsense of this brazen and empty fellow, TORRENS, and puts it forth as “*a satisfactory enough explanation*” of the cause of this great national injury. The real cause was, the *false and base paper-money*, put forth by the *Small-Note Bill*. But now, let us see how Dr. TORRENS makes out, that the cause was the *Corn-Bill*; and, observe, that this “*satisfactory enough explanation*” of Torrens, with Dr. Black’s passport, has travelled all over the country, getting lifts *gratis* from the country papers, which, in general, are admirably calculated for, and amiably disposed towards, giving accommodation to matter of this kind and character. I shall insert the Doctor’s article paragraph by paragraph, and remark as I proceed.

*Had we freely exchanged our wrought goods for the raw produce of our neighbours, there could not, while in the commercial countries of the world there remained fertile and well-situated land unreclaimed, have been a redundancy of capital, and an inadequate rate of profit and of interest, inducing individuals to employ their accumulations in wild and hazardous adventures.*

Here is the doctrine laid down. It is here taken for granted, that

we had a "redundancy of capital" (that is *money*, mind) ; and that we laid it out in wild ventures, because of the Corn-Bill. We must all along bear in mind, that, by capital is meant *money*.

But we would not receive the cheap and good timber of Norway, in order to enrich the timber-merchants of Canada; we gave the exhausted soils of the West India islands a monopoly for supplying the home market with sugar, in order to enable the planter to perpetuate slave cultivation; and above all, we closed our ports against the admission of foreign corn, in order to enrich the proprietors of land, by enabling them to lay a grievous and iniquitous tax upon the food of the people. We forcibly contracted the field of commercial enterprise; we choked up the advantageous channels in which additional investments might have been made; we clung to measures, the necessary tendency of which is to reduce almost to nothing the surplus of reproduction above expenditure; and THUS we occasioned such a redundancy of capital, and such a depression in the rates of profit and of interest, that new and hazardous ventures presented the only openings in which accumulations could be employed.

So, mind, we HAD the "accumulations" (of *money*, of course) and the Corn-Bill and other anti-free trade measures preventing us from using the *money* in fair and safe trade, we flew to "new and hazardous adventures with our money"; but, then, we must have HAD the money to lay out in safe trade: pray remember that, TORRENS.

By a system of commercial policy, disgraceful to the country, and to the age, we restricted the importation of foreign agricultural produce, and THEREBY lowered the rates of profit and of interest until capital, excluded from the channels of beneficial investment and reproduction, existed in a state of redundancy; the low rates of profit and of interest induced those who were possessed of it, to employ their accumulations in every species of hazardous venture which was proposed to them.

Here is the whole of it. Prevented from trading in foreign corn and other things, we laid our "redundant money" out in shares, bonds, and the like. But now, Dr. TORRENS; thou Doctor of Politics, with head as empty as that drum that used to call thee to thy swaggering parade, how happens it, that such an effect was, by the same cause, never produced before? But let us proceed.

This desire to engage in new ventures for the purpose of obtaining that adequate return for money which the ordinary transactions of business no longer afforded, rendered the spirit of speculation epidemic throughout the country; foreign loans and foreign mines, joint stock companies, and inordinate speculations in merchandise, created an unusual demand for accommodation and currency. . . . .

Stop, stop! Oh! the devil: this will never do, Doctor TORRENS! What! You were telling us, but now, that it was our "redundant capital," our capital which "existed in a state of redund-

*dancy*”; that it was our *not knowing what to do with* our heaps of money, that made us run after foreign loans and the like; and now, in the very next sentence, from that dear empty head of thine comes the assertion, that the foreign loans and the like, “*created an unusual demand for accommodation and currency*”; that is to say, that the foreign loans and the like *created an outcry for more money*, instead of having, as you had just asserted, been themselves *created by redundancy of money already existing!*—And yet, Doctor BLACK thinks this “*explanation of the matter satisfactory enough*”!—But, now comes the grand secret.

. . . . . The Directors of the Bank of England, and the country bankers, disregarding the legitimate principles of their trade, made issues upon long and unconvertible securities, and *created a redundant circulation*; the consequent high price of commodities, encouraging import, and checking export, with the engagements to be made good on account of foreign loans and foreign speculation, turned the balance of payments and the course of exchange against us; the Bank, in order to protect itself against the extraordinary demand for gold, suddenly contracted its issues; and THE CRASH CAME.

The devil it did! And so, here was a “*redundant circulation*” created by the foreign loans and the like! when the very basis of the argument is, that these loans

arose out of the “*redundant capital*,” which we possessed *before the loans took place*! What nonsense the fellow talks here! How the stupid creature *bothers* himself! However, let us hear him out.

. . . . . When the series of cause and effect is thus completed, it appears *obvious* and *self-evident* that the measures contemplated by Ministers for placing the circulation of the country banks upon a more secure foundation, can have little tendency to prevent the recurrence of the calamitous re-action which is now experienced. These measures may, perhaps, be to a certain extent beneficial. My objection to them is, that they do not go to the root of the evil; and that whether they be or be not adopted by the Legislature, the country, after the present crisis has passed away, will continue to be exposed to *periodical returns of regorgement and revulsion* . . . . To go at once to the root of the evil, and thus to prevent the periodical recurrence of these ruinous shocks to public and private credit, we must abolish those absurd and iniquitous restrictions on the importation of food and material, which limit the quantity of capital; which can be beneficially employed in domestic industry; and which render profit and interest lower in England than in other commercial countries.

Precious nonsense! So, then, the “*root of the evil*” is the Corn-Bill, and the want of other free trade; and the evil is “*a limit to the quantity of capital*” and consequent foreign loans and share-schemes and panics, though the drum-headed fellow had before asserted, that the Corn-Bill

and the other restrictions on trade were the cause of "*a redundancy of capital.*" But let me put a few questions to this Dr. Torrens.

**COBBETT.** Dr. TORRENS, pray, how long has the present Corn-Bill been in force?

**DR. TORRENS.** Ever since 1815.

**COBBETT.** How long have the other restrictions on trade existed?

**DR. TORRENS.** Oh! these twenty years and more.

**COBBETT.** Say several hundreds of years, Doctor.

**DR. TORRENS.** Well; that may be; but, we are not to be fools because our ancestors were.

**COBBETT.** Very true, Doctor; nor does there seem to be any law to compel us to be wise for a similar reason. But, Doctor, do you recollect, that the Corn-Bill, or that the other restrictions on trade, ever produced foreign loans, or share-schemes, *before*?

**DR. TORRENS.** What?

**COBBETT.** Do you, I say, recollect, that such consequences were ever produced *before* by the Corn-Bill and by want of free trade?

**DR. TORRENS.** I really do not understand you.

**COBBETT.** Not understand me! Why, you acknowledge, that these restrictive laws have been in force for many years, for eleven years at least; and, I ask you whether you recollect that they ever *before* produced any such effects?

**DR. TORRENS.** Upon the "honour of an officer and a gentleman," I do not recollect any thing at all about the matter.

**COBBETT.** Not recollect! Why I only want you to recollect for eleven years. Well, then, perhaps you recollect what has passed since last Christmas.

**DR. TORRENS.** Oh! Yes.

**COBBETT.** Have there, then, been any foreign loans, any bonds, any mines, any shares, any milk or washing companies, *since last Christmas*?

**DR. TORRENS.** Not that I know of.

**COBBETT.** Know of! Why, you know there have *not*; and yet, *why should there not*, seeing that the Corn-Bill has not been repealed, seeing that very little of free trade yet exists, and seeing that there must, according to your assertions, be now a "*great redundancy of capital,*" or money?

**DR. TORRENS.** I must go; but I will leave my friend and countryman, DR. BLACK, to answer you.

Come, then, DOCTOR BLACK, do take this matter up. Do show us why the Corn-Bill should have produced these effects in 1824 and 1825, and never before nor since. The Corn-Bill has sins enough to answer for without answering for the sins of the paper-money. Indeed it is itself one of the sins committed by the paper-money. And now, DR. BLACK, in conclusion, let me say, that it is not very candid in you to play off this great flashy fool, TORRENS, for the purpose of causing your readers to believe that which you would be ashamed to put forth under your own name.

## FOREIGN LOANS.

THE following account of these loans is worth preserving. It is such a proof of folly and of infamy as was never before beheld.

*A Statement of the Cost of the following Loans, compared with their present Value,  
and shewing the Loss resulting therefrom.*

	Capital.	Cost Price.	Amount.	Present Price.	Amount.	Loss.
Brazilian . . . . .	£. 3,200,000	£. 80	£. 2,560,000	£. 50	£. 1,600,000	£. 960,000
Buenos Ayres . . . . .	1,000,000	85	850,000	49	490,000	360,000
Chilian . . . . .	1,200,000	70	840,000	33	396,000	444,000
Colombian . . . . .	2,000,000	84	1,630,000	26	520,000	1,160,000
Ditto, 1824 . . . . .	4,750,000	88½	4,203,750	28	1,330,000	2,873,750
Danish . . . . .	3,500,000	75	2,625,000	54	1,890,000	735,000
Greek . . . . .	800,000	59	472,000	10	80,000	392,000
Ditto, 1824 . . . . .	2,000,000	56½	1,130,000	11	220,000	919,000
Mexican . . . . .	3,200,000	58	1,856,000	38	1,216,000	640,000
Ditto, 1825 . . . . .	3,200,000	90	2,880,000	45	1,440,000	1,440,000
Neapolitan . . . . .	2,500,000	92½	2,312,500	70	1,750,000	562,500
Peruvian . . . . .	450,000	82	396,000	23	103,500	292,000
Ditto, 1824 . . . . .	750,000	92	615,000	22	165,000	450,000
Spanish . . . . .	10,000,000	56	5,600,000	7	700,000	4,900,000
Ditto, 1823 . . . . .	12,000,000	30	3,600,000	4	480,000	3,120,000
	50,550,000		31,620,250		12,380,500	19,239,750

Thus, the sum *lent* was thirty-one millions and odd ; the sum *to be received* for this was fifty millions and odd ; and the sum that the whole is now worth is twelve millions and odd. So that, instead of a *gain* of nineteen millions, there is, up to now, a *loss* of nineteen millions ! But, *in the end* it will, I am convinced, be all loss, the whole of the thirty-one millions ! This is a pretty little present to our friends abroad. It is surprising what lies are still swallowed by the greedy creatures, who deal in these *funds*, as they are called ; or, *securities* ; that is a still better name. The *interest does not get paid*; but, our newspapers contain most flourishing accounts of the "*finances*" of our friends. The following, from the Morning Chronicle, of the 4th August, is a specimen :—

" A Bogota Paper, of the 25th of May, reached the North and South American Coffee-house yesterday. It contains no allusion to the movement of PÆZ. " *The Decree* of the Colombian Government, consolidating the financial affairs of the Republic, is published. It is dated the 19th of May. It accords with a project, of which the particulars were before the public some weeks ago. The whole

" of the *tobacco duties*, and an eighth of the customs, are appropriated for the payment of the debt in England."—Now, this is all a barefaced lie. There is *no revenue* ! It is a newspaper cheat, and nothing more. But, *no matter*. It will injure nobody that ought not to be ruined. Every one that deals in "*securities*" of any sort ought to be starved ; and, a very great part of them will be starved. The base creatures little dream of the fate that awaits them. They have helped to ruin the country ; and they ought to suffer. The newspapers contain speeches of the Presidents of *Colombia* and of *Mexico* to the Congresses of those countries. The newspapers are *paid* for this, which is intended to make fools believe, that these "*Republics*" are just about like that of *North America* ! It is all a cheat altogether. The fellows who call themselves a Congress, have not, perhaps, forty shirts amongst every thirty of them. In short, it is all one grand piece of cheatery, and all the bonds are not, in my estimation, worth a farthing.

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ARISTOCRATICAL  
ENCROACHMENT.

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THE next Register will contain a Letter to that most audacious and unfeeling aristocrat, “*Sir James Graham of Netherby*,” as he calls himself in a pamphlet, in which he proposes to rob the whole of the rest of the community, *for the sake of upholding the Aristocracy and the Clergy*. Really, one would think that *pride* had made these fellows mad. What! and do they imagine that the whole of this nation are going to *stand quiet*, and be treated as this impudent Aristocrat proposes? Do they really imagine that they are going to keep all the pensions, sinecures, grants, fee-farm leases, admiralties, generalships, governorships, bishoprics, livings, and all the other things that make up the about *thirty millions a year* that they have amongst them; does “*Sir James Graham of Netherby*” really imagine that they are going to **KEEP ALL THESE**, and also the 1,600,000*l.* that the Church-Clergy get out of the taxes; does this Aristocrat think that they are to **KEEP ALL THESE**, while the old people, the widows, and the orphans,

whose bread depends on the funds, are to **HAVE THOSE FUNDS TAKEN FROM THEM!** Impudent Aristocrat, we will teach you better than this!

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“ENGLAND'S GLORY.”

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There has, for some months, been a story about, relative to “ENGLAND'S GLORY” having *subscribed towards my election enterprise*. This story has gone through many of the news-papers, it having been, in London, begun by *SIR GLORY's* poor, little, sycophantic *Tom-Tit*, who thinks it an honour to be exposed to *be shot at* for the sake of *Glory*, who hardly knows that the poor little thing is in existence. This *story* has *surprised* many people, and it has *puzzled* *Glory's* eulogists, the *adorers* of 20,000 acres of land. These latter, and the *agents* of *Glory* himself, have not *known what to say about this subscription*. At last (without *my* ever having said a word about the matter), they have *fallen upon a plan*, and they have begun their operations at *a distance from London*. They have begun in the “*DUMFRIES and GALLOWAY GAZETTE*,” of the 11th July last. Now, if this be not the work of *Glory*, it is that of *some of his crew*. I, therefore, hereby call upon him to cause to be published, *in his own name*, in some London Paper, a *disclaimer* of the article I allude to: and I hereby notify, that if he do not do this before the 31st day of this month, I, who have never yet said a word about

any subscription by him, who never should have noticed his conduct in the affair; I, whom he, or his base tools, now assails on this score, in order to screen him, will tell the true story, on Saturday the 2nd of September next! The least that he ought to have done, in such a case, was, to hold his tongue, and to muzzle his curs.

However, let him contradict the article that I have alluded to, or I will chastise him, "excellent person," as Mr. LAWLESS may think him. Mr. LAWLESS is offended, that I should hint that his praise of Glory arose from the 20,000 acres of land. Well, I shall, I am sure, be very glad to find that this is not so; but the worst of it is, I know Glory's character and conduct, private and public; and I can see no other cause than the 20,000 acres! All that Mr. LAWLESS knows of Glory is this: that he got into favour with the people, and got his seat by bawling for universal suffrage, that he wanted to disfranchise the poor voters in Ireland, and that he said, that he would do the same in England if he could, and that he was not himself elected by the poor, but by people of property! This is all that Mr. LAWLESS knows of Glory; and, therefore, as it is impossible that Mr. LAWLESS can think Glory an "excellent person" FOR THIS, what cause can there be but the 20,000 acres?

#### THE POOR MAN'S FRIEND.

JUST published, No. 1., a little work under the above title. I in-

tend it to contain about six numbers, at twopence a Number, to be published monthly. I intend it to be the *Companion of the Working Classes*, giving them useful information and advice, adapted to their present difficult situation; and especially I intend it as the means of teaching them how to AVOID SUFFERING FROM HUNGER! I intend clearly to explain to them their rights and their duties. Applications from the country should be made without delay. I shall give one copy of each Number to every working family in Preston, as a mark of my gratitude for their great kindness towards me, and also as a mark of my admiration of their sense and their public spirit.—The other Numbers will be published on the first of each succeeding month.—The price, to Gentlemen taking a quantity, will be, for one hundred, twelve shillings, for five hundred, fifty-five shillings, and, for a thousand, five pounds.

#### MR. COBBETT'S PETITION TO THE KING.

Just published, price one penny, or six shillings a hundred, Mr. COBBETT's Petition to the King, together with a Preface, and with the two notes written, by Mr. COBBETT, to the Marquess of Conyngham. These documents are printed in this cheap manner, that they may be circulated as widely as possible. I recommend them for the use of all the great towns in the kingdom.

## MARKETS.

Average Prices of CORN throughout ENGLAND, for the week ending July 29.

*Per Quarter.*

	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat ..	57 4	Rye ....	41 5
Barley ..	31 4	Beans ...	45 10
Oats ....	26 10	Pease ...	48 1

Total Quantity of Corn returned as Sold in the Maritime Districts, for the Week ended July 29.

Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat .. 42,120	Rye .... 157
Barley .. 2,631	Beans ... 3,336
Oats ... 12,434	Pease ... 520

*Corn Exchange, Mark Lane.*

Quantities and Prices of British Corn, &c. sold and delivered in this Market, during the week ended Saturday, July 29.

Qrs.	£.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat.. 4,940 for 15,740	13	6	Average, 63 8
Barley.. 258 ..	398	8 0	.....30 10
Oats.. 7,744 ..	10,881	7 7	.....28 1
Rye.... — ..	—	—	—
Beans .. 1,639 ..	3,836	12 0	.....46 9
Pease .. 347 ..	1,031	14 8	.....59 5

Friday, Aug. 4.—There have been short quantities of all sorts of Corn this week except of Wheat, which article has met a heavy sale, and the prices of Monday last are hardly supported. Barley, Beans, and Pease, are without alteration. Oats appear to be still looking upward, from the scantiness of the supply.

Monday, Aug. 7.—The supplies of Wheat that have come in since this day se'nnight have been much larger than in any recent week; the quantities of Barley, Beans, Pease, and Oats, have been small. There are several samples of new Wheat at market, very dry, but not so full-bodied as last year's growth, which sold at 56s. to 65s. per qr. The weather continues so extremely favourable for harvest, that the Corn must now be nearly all secured within a considerable distance of the metropolis. Under these circumstances, our Millers purchase so reluctantly, that the Wheat trade has been very heavy, at a reduction of full 2s. per qr. from the terms of this day se'nnight.

Barley remains as last quoted; some new has sold at 38s. per quarter, fine in colour, but not stout. Beans are unaltered. Boiling Pease are rather lower. Grey are as last quoted. The quantity of Oats for sale is inconsiderable, and an advance of 1s. per quarter is obtained on the terms of last week, but the sale is not free. Flour sells heavily.

*Price on board Ship as under.*

Flour, per sack .....	50s. — 55s.
— Seconds .....	42s. — 46s.
— North Country ..	40s. — 43s.

**COAL MARKET, July 28.**

<i>Ships at Market.</i>	<i>Ships sold.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
42½ Newcastle..	25	27s. 0d. to 34s. 0d.
13 Sunderland ..	10	31s. 6d. — 34s. 9d.

Account of Wheat, &c. arrived in the Port of London, from July 31 to Aug. 5, both inclusive.

	Qrs.		Qrs.
Wheat ..	7,651	Tares ....	—
Barley ..	122	Linseed ..	5,684
Malt....	1,857	Rapeseed ..	—
Oats ....	2,834	Brank ..	—
Beans....	537	Mustard ..	—
Flour....	8,127	Flax ....	—
Rye....	—	Hemp ....	—
Pease....	1,332	Seeds ...	852

Foreign.—Wheat, 12,075; Barley, 760; Oats, 8,687; and Beans, 73 quarters.

#### Price of Hops, per Cwt. in the Borough.

Monday, Aug. 7.—The accounts from the plantations are still more favourable, the plant having evidently received considerable vigour from the late rains, so as to cause them, in some districts, to throw out fresh shoots towards the bottom.—Duty estimated, 205,000*l.*

#### Another Account from the Borough.

Aug. 7.—The accounts from the Hop Plantations continue favourable. It is admitted by all parties the appearance is very promising, that they are fast coming into Hop, and that the weather is most congenial, particularly to the weak Bines, which will do a great deal more than was expected. The duty, in consequence of these favourable symptoms, has advanced to 205,000*l.* Bunches of very fine Hops have already made their appearance here. There is but little doing, and prices nominal.

Maidstone, Aug. 3.—The weather this week continuing so kindly for the burr, has brought the Hops forward, and they are getting on well. Duty called 190,000*l.* to 200,000*l.*

Worcester, Aug. 2.—The reports from the Plantation continue favourable. In our market the prices are nominal.

Monday, Aug. 7.—The arrivals from Ireland last week were 2,751 firkins of Butter, and 10 bales of Bacon; and from Foreign Ports 10,057 casks of Butter.

#### SMITHFIELD, Monday, Aug. 7.

##### Per Stone of 8 pounds (alive).

	s. d.	s. d.	
Beef .....	3 8 to 4	6	
Mutton ...	3 8 — 4	4	
Veal .....	4 8 — 5	6	
Pork.....	4 0 — 4	8	
Lamb .....	4 4 — 5	4	
Beasts ...	2,311	Sheep ...	28,830
Calves ...	280	Pigs ...	100

#### NEWGATE, (same day.)

##### Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s. d.	s. d.
Beef ... .	3 4 to 4	2
Mutton ...	3 4 — 4	0
Veal .....	3 4 — 5	4
Pork.....	3 8 — 5	8
Lamb .....	4 0 — 5	0

#### LEADENHALL, (same day.)

##### Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s. d.	s. d.
Beef .....	3 4 to 4	2
Mutton ...	3 4 — 4	2
Veal .....	3 8 — 5	4
Pork.....	4 0 — 5	4
Lamb .....	3 8 — 5	4

Price of Bread.—The price of the 4lb. Loaf is stated at 9*½d.* by the full-priced Bakers.

POTATOES.

SPITALFIELDS, per Ton.

Ware.....	£4 0 to 5 0
Middlings.....	2 10 — 3 10
Chats .....	2 5 — 0 0
Common Red..	0 0 — 0 0
Onions, 0s. 0d.—0s. 0d. per bush.	

BOROUGH, per Ton.

Ware .....	£4 10 to 6 0
Middlings.....	2 10 — 3 0
Chats.....	1 10 — 2 0
Common Red..	0 0 — 0 0

HAY and STRAW, per Load.

Smithfield.—Hay....80s. to 100s.

Straw...34s. to 40s.

Clover. 100s. to 126s.

St. James's.—Hay.... 75s. to 115s.

Straw .. 36s. to 44s.

Clover..100s. to 126s.

Whitechapel.--Hay.... 70s. to 110s.

Straw...40s. to 44s.

Clover.,80s. to 126s.

COUNTRY CORN MARKETS.

By the QUARTER, excepting where otherwise named; from Wednesday to Saturday last, inclusive.

*The Scotch Markets are the Returns of the Week before.*

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Pease.
	s. to s. d.				
Aylesbury .....	52 62 0	36 38 0	30 33 0	51 52 0	0 0 0
Banbury .....	48 56 0	36 41 0	34 38 0	52 56 0	0 0 0
Basingstoke ....	53 63 0	30 34 0	23 29 0	50 56 0	0 0 0
Bridport.....	50 57 0	32 34 0	26 32 0	50 52 0	0 0 0
Chelmsford.....	48 66 0	30 34 0	26 32 0	45 48 0	48 60 0
Derby.....	60 66 0	32 43 0	28 33 0	52 56 0	0 0 0
Devizes.....	50 62 0	31 38 0	30 36 0	54 60 0	0 0 0
Dorchester.....	50 60 0	29 32 0	26 32 0	48 60 0	0 0 0
Exeter.....	58 64 0	34 36 0	29 32 0	28 32 0	0 0 0
Eye .....	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Guildford.....	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Henley .....	54 68 0	31 35 0	28 34 0	49 54 0	50 56 0
Hexcaste.....	50 54 0	0 0 0	24 28 0	48 52 0	0 0 0
Hungerford.....	50 60 0	32 36 0	26 35 0	56 60 0	0 0 0
Lewes .....	54 62 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Newbury .....	48 64 0	32 36 0	29 34 0	52 57 0	0 56 0
Northampton....	56 61 0	34 37 0	31 35 0	50 52 0	0 0 0
Nottingham ...	58 0 0	30 0 0	29 0 0	52 0 0	0 0 0
Reading .....	55 70 0	0 34 0	22 33 0	44 54 0	0 0 0
Stamford.....	51 58 0	32 39 0	25 32 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Stowmarket ....	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Swansea .....	78 0 0	36 0 0	28 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Truro .....	61 0 0	37 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Uxbridge .....	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Warminster.....	48 62 0	28 34 0	31 34 0	58 62 0	0 0 0
Winchester.....	58 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Dalkeith* .....	31 37 0	23 28 0	23 28 6	24 27 6	24 27 6
Haddington* ....	30 35 0	24 28 0	24 28 0	28 29 0	28 30 0

\* Dalkeith and Haddington are given by the *boll*.—The Scotch *boll* for Wheat, Rye, Pease, and Beans, is three per cent. more than 4 bushels. The *boll* of Barley and Oats, is about 6 bushels Winchester, or as 6 to 8 compared with the English *quarter*.

*Liverpool*, Aug. 1.—Since Tuesday last the weather has continued as favourable as possible for the harvest, which being, probably the earliest ever remembered, has produced here a very dull demand for Wheats throughout the past week. The importations appear heavy, but they are principally foreign. There was a good demand at this day's market for good fresh old Foreign Wheat, at a small reduction in value from the last quotations. Oats continue in good demand, and fine sweet Oatmeal obtained an advance of 2s. per 240 lbs. Other articles remain much the same as last advised.

Imported into Liverpool from the 25th to 31st July, 1826, inclusive: Wheat, 14,186; Barley, 905; Oats, 5,457; Malt, 230; Beans, 460; and Pease, 278 quarters. Flour, 280 sacks, per 280 lbs. Oatmeal, 723 packs, per 240 lbs. American Flour, 500 barrels.

*Guildford*, Aug. 5.—Wheat, new, for mealing, 13*l.* to 17*l.* 10*s.* per load. Barley, 30*s.* to 55*s.* 6*d.*; Oats, 28*s.* to 34*s.*; Beans, 50*s.* to 54*s.*; and Pease, grey, 50*s.* to 56*s.* per quarter.

*Norwich*, Aug. 5.—We had a large supply of Wheat to this day's market,—many samples of the new crop that are of fine quality. Red sold from 46*s.* to 52*s.*; White to 56*s.* Barley, 28*s.* to 32*s.* Oats, 22*s.* to 27*s.* Beans, 42*s.* to 48*s.* Pease, 42*s.* to 45*s.* per quarter; and Flour, 42*s.* to 43*s.* per sack.

*Bristol*, Aug. 4.—The supplies of Corn here are rather increased; the demand steady, and present prices about as follow:—Wheat from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 9*d.*; Barley, 3*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*; Oats, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*; Beans, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*; and Malt, 5*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* per bushel, Imperial. Flour, Seconds, 37*s.* to 49*s.* per sack.

*Ipswich*, Aug. 5.—We had to-day scarcely any market, our farmers being so busily engaged in their harvest. So little business was doing that prices are only nominal.

*Wisbech*, Aug. 5.—We had a very small market to-day, and the little business done was at about the terms of last week, except in Wheat, which was a trifle lower. A few samples of new appeared; the quality inferior to the old.—Red Wheat, 50*s.* to 54*s.*; White ditto, 54*s.* to 56*s.*; Oats, 24*s.* to 28*s.*; and Beans, 41*s.* to 46*s.* per quarter.

*Wakefield*, Aug. 4.—Our arrivals here to-day are very moderate, particularly of Wheat, being much smaller than for some time back. Fine fresh Wheat has met very dull sale at a decline of 1*s.* per quarter, and up to the close of the market very little business has been done; middling sorts and Foreign are very unsaleable. Good fresh Oats are scarce, and full as dear. Shelling obtains last week's prices, and 39*s.* has been refused for a sample of new. No alteration in Beans.

*Manchester*, Aug. 5.—The causes adverted to this day se'nnight still continue in similar operation, and the trade throughout this week has ruled extremely dull. We had a better attendance of both town and country dealers at this day's market; and although only few samples were offering, they were more than equal to the demand. Wheats were much neglected, and to have effected any sales of moment, a trifling reduction must have been submitted to. We had a few parcels of new Wheat, of fine quality and condition, both English and Irish. Good mealing Oats are scarce; and although rather lower in the early part of the week, fully support our currency. Barley, Beans, Pease, and Malt, continue steady.

*Newcastle-on-Tyne*, Aug. 5.—We had rather a short supply of Wheat from the farmers this morning, but there were a good many arrivals coast-wise, and the weather being very fine, the sale for Wheat was dull, at a decline of 2*s.* per quarter from last week's prices.

## COUNTRY CATTLE AND MEAT MARKETS, &amp;c.

*Norwich Castle Meadow*, Aug. 5.—The supply of Cattle for slaughter to-day was similar to that of last week, very inferior in quality, prices 7s. 6d. per stone of 14lbs. sinking offal. The show of Store Stock was large; Scots sold from 3s. 9d. to 4s. 3d. per stone, when fat. The Short Horns, what few we had were not good; 3s. per stone was obtained for what were sold. Cows and Calves not a ready sale.

*Manchester*, Aug. 2.—At this day's market there was a large supply of Cattle, Sheep, and Lambs, (the former chiefly Irish,) which met very dull sale, and barely supported our quotations.—Calves and Pigs remain without alteration in value.—Meat, Beef, 5d. to 6d.; Mutton, 5d. to 5½d.; Lamb, 4d. to 5d.; Veal, 5½d. to 7d.; and Pork, 3d. to 4d. per pound, sinking offal.

## AVERAGE PRICE OF CORN, sold in the Maritime Counties of England and Wales, for the Week ended July 29, 1826.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
London*	61 1....30	9....27	1
Essex	58 9....31	4....27	5
Kent	59 4....31	0....27	2
Sussex	56 3....0	0....25	2
Suffolk	55 0....32	1....28	6
Cambridgeshire	55 9....30	6....23	4
Norfolk	53 6....28	5....24	1
Lincolnshire	56 8....34	7....25	10
Yorkshire	55 1....30	4....23	3
Durham	60 0....0	0....32	5
Northumberland	57 5....32	3....27	10
Cumberland	63 4....33	6....31	8
Westmoreland	66 10....39	0....33	11
Lancashire	64 6....29	1....31	10
Cheshire	60 6....33	10....27	2
Gloucestershire	59 9....40	0....32	6
Somersetshire	59 9....34	7....27	7
Monmouthshire	61 3....0	0....29	0
Devonshire	59 4....33	0....28	4
Cornwall	63 1....33	0....27	6
Dorsetshire	56 6....32	8....30	0
Hampshire	56 3....31	9....0	0
North Wales	65 0....28	6....27	10
South Wales	59 5....32	0....23	9

\* The London Average is always that of the Week preceding.